



General Assembly

**Senate Joint
Resolution No. 40**

January Session, 2005

LCO No. 2941

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Referred to Committee on Education

Introduced by:
(ED)

**RESOLUTION MEMORIALIZING CONGRESS TO AMEND THE NO
CHILD LEFT BEHIND ACT.**

Resolved by this Assembly:

1 WHEREAS, in 2001 the Congress of the United States enacted and
2 the President signed into law the No Child Left Behind Act, P.L. 107-
3 110, while it has the laudable purpose of increased accountability and
4 higher student achievement, it is an unwarranted extension of federal
5 power without federal constitutional authority and misplaced in its
6 application to Connecticut and other states which have consistently led
7 the nation in accountability and student achievement; and

8 WHEREAS, the No Child Left Behind Act, P.L. 107-110 holds the
9 states to rigid unfunded federal mandates, increasing the financial
10 burdens already faced by the state of Connecticut and its cities and
11 towns, including federal special education mandates still not funded as
12 promised; and

13 WHEREAS, the No Child Left Behind Act, P.L. 107-110 requires
14 paraprofessionals to be highly qualified, the federal government has
15 provided neither adequate funding to provide paraprofessionals the

16 necessary training, nor sufficient time for paraprofessionals to meet the
17 mandated requirements; and

18 WHEREAS, even though Connecticut and other states have a
19 history of demonstrated success in raising student achievement
20 through state standards in place prior to the enactment of the No Child
21 Left Behind Act, P.L. 107-110, the President and Congress made no
22 provisions for, nor established a mechanism for, the granting of
23 waivers from the mandates of said act for states such as Connecticut;

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Connecticut
25 General Assembly expresses its solidarity with other states seeking to
26 challenge this unwarranted federal mandate and calls upon the
27 President and Congress of the United States to amend the No Child
28 Left Behind Act, P.L. 107-110 to provide for a mechanism that will
29 require the granting of waivers from said act to Connecticut and other
30 states that (1) have implemented effective, high standards and
31 accountability measures, (2) consistently achieve within the top tenth
32 percentile of all states for student performance and participation in
33 national assessments, including the National Assessment of
34 Educational Progress and the Scholastic Achievement Test, (3)
35 annually profile school districts and schools for accountability and
36 student achievement pursuant to demographic indices including
37 subcategories of student performance, including a subcategory based
38 on a high percentage of students eligible for free or reduced price
39 lunches, and (4) direct additional resources for school readiness and
40 reading programs and school construction projects to school districts
41 with a high concentration of students performing below the level of
42 proficiency; and

43 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the clerks of the House of
44 Representatives and the Senate cause a copy of this resolution to be
45 sent to the President and each member of the Connecticut
46 Congressional delegation.

ED Joint Favorable